

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01277 260603Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 PA-01 /062 W

-----058735 260610Z /23

P R 242030Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7664

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, TV

SUBJECT: TUVALU INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED FROM TUVALU CHIEF MINISTER, TOALIPI LAUTI, OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR AMBASSADOR AND USG REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND TUVALU INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 1. INVITATION STATES TUVALU GOVT WOULD WELCOME SHIP VISIT AT TIME OF CELEBRATIONS. IT NOTES THAT ACCOMMODATIONS IN FUNAFITI ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED, AND TUVALU GOVT CAN MAKE AVAILABLE ONLY TWO DOUBLE ROOMS SO USG REPRESENTATION WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE COMFORTABLY ACCOMMODATED ON SHIP. IT STATES FURTHER THAT AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI WILL BE SENDING SHIPS, AND IF U.S. IS ABLE TO ARRANGE SHIP VISIT, TUVALU WOULD APPRECIATE CREW PROVIDING PARTICIPANTS IN MARCH PAST AS WELL AS SOCCER GAME.

2. AS REPORTED IN OUR MEMCON OF 13 JULY (NOTAL), CHIEF MINISTER LAUTI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT UK PLANS TO SEND PRINCESS MARGARET TO INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.

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THAT INFORMATION IS NOW PUBLIC. SHE WILL USE NEW ZEALAND WARSHIP AS HER HEADQUARTERS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY HOPES FOR AN EARY DECISION BY THE DEPARTMENT ON APPROPRIATE LEVEL USG REPRESENTATION AND THAT OUR PARTICIPANTION WILL INCLUDE SHIP VISIT. THE OVERWHELMINGLY POSIIVE REACTION BY THE SOLOMON ISLANDERS

TO THE VISIT OF THE TWO U.S. NAVY FRIGATES DURING THEIR
INDEPENDENCE FESTIVITIES ENCOURAGES US TO URGE THAT A
SIMILAR GESTURE BE MADE TO TUVALU. IMPACT OF U.S.
SHIPS VISITS ON SUCH FESTIVE AND IMPORTANT OCCASIONS
ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL OTHER PACIFIC
ISLANDS FAR EXCEEDS THE TERRITORY AND POPULATION OF
HOST COUNTRY.
CONDON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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